



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Meeting Minutes 03/14/2007

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 3/14/07

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*	Fey*	Dunn*	O'Neill*	Mahoney
DeCoursey	Connors	Simmons*	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning	Carman	Kneeland

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Town Manager Brian Sullivan, Deputy Town Manager Nancy Galkowski, Health & Human Services Director Christine Connolly

MINUTES of 3/12/07 accepted as amended. Unanimous.

ART 28 RENTAL RECEIPTS: Sullivan would like to establish a revolving fund (an enterprise fund is thought to be illegal) to receive rentals from town-owned buildings and to pay for operation and maintenance of these buildings. Currently the rentals go into the General Fund & expenses are appropriated by Town Meeting. This requires home rule legislation. He would also like to increase the rentals so that a balance in the fund could be built up to cover capital expenses. This might be 1% to 2% annually of the value of the buildings. He is open to the idea of an annual payment to the town in lieu of taxes. He would like the legislation to permit, not require, Town Meeting to establish this fund.

ART 39-40 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: Sullivan, using a handout, described the agreements that have been reached with all but 2 of the unions. The agreements specify colas of 2.5% in FY07 and 3% in FY08. The health insurance copay will be increased. Employees starting after 7/1/07 will pay 25%. An additional 0.5% cola will be added in FY07 when all unions agree to the copay increase. An error in the wording of FY06 Article 39 setting aside funds for collective bargaining caused \$145k of these funds to be returned to free cash. The health care concession is estimated to save the town \$178k. A special town meeting will be needed to appropriate \$517k to the various union contracts. A portion of this must be reserved for the contracts not yet settled. Appropriations totaling \$1,260,200 will be needed for FY08. The manager will provide wording for the necessary votes by 4/2.

ART 43 ENERGY MANAGER: Sullivan has met w/ Sustainable Arlington. Rather than hire a part time person he proposes to appoint a task group to be led by the Assistant Public Works Director, to include representatives of other town offices that are involved with energy along with some residents. He has just hired a new Public Works Director who will start 4/17. This will free the assistant to start the task group. Sullivan said that the new Director will fill the vacant positions of town engineer & recycling coordinator. FinCom members suggested contacting local communities that have similar task forces and looking for grants.

ART 48,49,50,53,54 Sullivan provided a handout with recommended appropriations for these standard articles.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET: Sullivan provided copies of a memo to the BoS which reviews the impact on Arlington.

Net increase in local aid is \$216k (1.7%), much less than the \$400k in the 5 yr plan. He hopes to double (to \$100/per student) the increase in chapter 70 funds by a change that would benefit many communities and cost \$20m.

RINK CONTRACT: The State did not sign contract which would have obligated us to capital improvements. Sullivan would push for matching funds for such improvements which might include an expanded facility.

ENERGY COSTS: The recent rate change was from \$.047 to \$.105/KWH for supply. The delivery charge increase was about 10%. Sullivan to review Olsen's spreadsheet that documents inconsistent electricity cost budgets &

report back.

ART 18 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT: Sullivan believes this is an important service to all departments and should be reporting to him.

ART 33 55 VENNERR RD: Sullivan is developing a policy to govern such situations that will include an negotiated payment to the town based on an appraisal (to go to an open space fund) and a public hearing for abutters. He expects the policy, approved by the BoS, to be in place by Town Meeting.

FIRE OVERTIME: Sullivan admitted this to be a problem. The AFD is tracking it closely. The amount may be insufficient. The cost of a staff increase must be traded off against the cost of overtime given minimum manning.

REGIONALIZATION: Sullivan believes some purchasing including services may be doable. He is also discussing coordinating ambulance services to Morningside from the nearby Winchester fire station.

ART 14 GRAFFITTI: Sullivan said that other communities have found that requiring quick cleanup and regulating sales have helped. FinCom members expressed concern

WATER BODY MAINTENANCE: Sullivan said there is no line item in DPW budget. He does not remember agreeing to this approach and said he would prefer an annual warrant article.

BUD 21 HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES: After being welcomed, the new director, Connelly, using a handout, explained the reorganization of the department. Recreation was removed. The separate administrative office was eliminated. Connelly says she is busy but likes the new job and organization. The requested salaries for BoH & Youth Ser for FY08, \$561,190, is \$18k less than the FY07 appropriation. She also provided a history of recent monthly Veteran's Aid & Assistance expenditures to justify the requested \$20k increase for FY08.

ART 57 RETIREE HEALTH CARE: Tosti presented wording for a vote that would transfer funds into a new Stabilization Fund. A motion to use only half the Medicare Reimbursements failed 3-12. After some wording additions to strengthen the intent, the FinCom VOTED favorable action. Unanimous.

TRANSFER: Tosti provided copies of request for \$130k to Workers Compensation Account. The need was well documented. VOTED to transfer \$130k from the Reserve Fund as requested.

COMMITTEE: Human Rights Commission 3/19, Historic District Commissions 3/19, School Infrastructure 3/21, Education Budget 4/4.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$350,000-\$130,000=\$220,000

Peter B Howard Secretary 3/15/07 Revised 3/19/07

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Comptroller, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	2/26	2/26	\$10,778	15-1
2	Board of Selectmen	2/26	2/26	\$343,723	
3	Tow n Manager	2/26	2/26	\$432,326	
4	Personnel	3/12	3/12	\$179,228	11-2
5	Comptroller	3/7	3/7	\$830,407	
6	Treasurer	3/5	3/5	\$552,840	13-0-1
7	Postage	3/5	3/5	\$135,160	13-0-1
8	Assessors	2/26	2/26	\$286,221	
9	Legal	2/26			
10	Tow n Clerk	2/26	2/26	\$221,957	
11	Registrar of Voters	2/26	2/26	\$61,787	15-1
12	Parking	3/5	3/5	\$90,766	13-0-1
13	Planning	2/26	2/26	\$208,782	
14	Redevelopment Board	2/26	2/26	\$480,777	
15	Zoning Board of Appeals	2/28	2/28	\$22,296	

16	Public Works				
17a	Community Safety Admin	3/7	3/7	\$343,148	
17b	Police	3/7	3/7	\$5,289,617	
17d	Support	3/12	3/12	\$633,957	
18	Inspections	3/7	3/7	\$328,342	
19	Education				
20	Library	2/26	2/28	\$1,811,090	
21	Health & Human Services				
22b	Veterans	3/12	3/12	\$223,311	
22	Retirement	2/28	2/28	\$6,706,719	
23	Insurance				
	Workmans Comp	2/28	2/28	\$490,000	
	Unemployment	2/28	2/28	\$100,000	
	Liability	2/28	2/28	\$300,000	
24	Reserve Fund	2/28	2/28	\$400,000	
W&S					
Rec					
Rnk					
COA					

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Result Unlisted votes were unanimous
18	Data Processing Department Transfer	2/21	2/21	Jones to draft vote
26	Pension Funding	2/21	2/21	No action
27	Health Care Trust Funds	2/5	2/21	No action
28	Rental Receipts	3/14		
39	Collective Bargaining	3/14		
40	Future Collective Bargaining	3/14		
41	Salary Adjustments/Elected officials			
42	Carbon Bank	2/5		No report
43	Energy manager	2/5,3/14		Carman – Belmont plan Howard-Vision 2020
36	SPED Fund			
45	Capital Budget	3/12	3/12	\$8,360,046

45	Rescind Authority to Borrow	3/12	3/12	No action
47	Minuteman Tech	3/5	3/7	\$3,276,622 12-5
48	Tow n Celebrations	3/14		
49	Committees & Commissions	3/14		
50	Miscellaneous	3/14		
51	George St Sidew alk	2/21		Need more info
52	School Facilities Working Group			
53	Sew ers	3/14		
54	Water	3/14		
55	Liberty Ride	3/12		No report - BoS
56	Pension Adjustments	2/21	2/21	Favorable action
57	Transfer Retiree Health Care Funds	2/21	3/14	
59	200 th Anniversary Committee	2/21	3/7	\$6200 13-4
61	Tow n & School Budgets	2/5	3/12	No action
62	Harry Barber Program	3/7	3/7	\$7,500
63	Minuteman Senior Services	3/7	3/7	\$9,818 15-2
64	Revaluation	2/21	2/21	\$325,000
65	Tip Fee Stab Fund			
66	Cemetery			
67	Overlay Reserve			
68	Stabilization Fund			
69	Free Cash			
72	W&S Health Insurance Offsets	2/5		Finances Sub to investigate